

of their dependence on others. By caring and interacting with those in need, they have enriched the lives of those who they help.

Again, I want to congratulate all the men and women in this field of work. The U.S. Congress certainly appreciates the valuable service they provide. We thank you for the job you do and for the compassion which you bring to your field.

RECOGNITION OF CHAUNCEY VEATCH, NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR, COACHELLA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, THERMAL, CA

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2002*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chauncey Veatch, the National Teacher of the Year, from Coachella Valley High School in Thermal, CA. Mr. Veatch deserves our praise and admiration for this honor, and I am proud to have him teaching America's future leaders in California's 44th Congressional district.

Chauncey Veatch teaches social studies in Thermal to a particularly diverse group of students, where out of the 2,900 students at his school, approximately 96 percent are Latino and about half of those come from migrant families. Some of these students continue to struggle with the English language, though Mr. Veatch is able to work through these barriers to assist the youth around him. The high school itself lies in a desert area, and is thus unlike more urbanized areas of southern California, but boasts of rich agricultural resources and a proud community.

Mr. Veatch's background is one that undoubtedly helps in his ability to convey those concepts most important for his students while having a lasting effect on their educational careers. After the gulf war, and a distinguished military career that introduced him to many differing countries and cultures, Chauncey entered the Defense Language Institute at the Presidio of Monterey. There he immersed himself in Spanish, becoming an honor graduate in the Basic Class, in the Intermediate Class, and in the Advanced Class.

Given the passage last year of H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act, the integral role that teachers play in the lives of our children was again apparent. Without guidance and assistance from teachers like Chauncey, we will not be able to properly introduce these reforms and have their implementation be successful. Both President Bush and Mrs. Bush have been great leaders in the vital role that teachers play in our society. President Bush stated well this concept in saying how important it is to "thank our teachers," and "herald such a noble and important profession for the future of our country."

The unique and extremely rewarding time spent in a classroom with Chauncey has already shown results, with his students receiving acclaim with regard to Math Day, Art Awards, and History Day, among many other awards. His classroom is truly a place for opportunity for all, where literacy and dreams are modeled into a lifetime of learning and believing in one's highest potential.

Thus it is easy to see why Chauncey Veatch has been selected as the National

Teacher of the Year, as he represents the professionalism, humility, understanding, and intelligence that deserves our attention.

Again, I would like to personally recognize and congratulate Chauncey Veatch for winning this award and for his continued contributions to the students and future of California's 44th District.

CALLING FOR A COMMITMENT TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2002*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD an urgent call for the world to end the threat of destruction from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. Despite the Cold War's demise over a decade ago, the possibility that a nuclear device or other weapon of mass destruction will one day wreak devastation remains real. Rather than defuse this threat by working to reduce the world's stores of these weapons, the current Administration has instead begun to explore ways to enhance our nuclear capabilities. The time has come for this Administration, this Congress, and this country to commit to the abolition of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. We must heed this urgent call.

An urgent call ending threats of mass destruction. Today, cities and nations are threatened as never before by weapons of mass destruction. The events of September 11 have brought home to Americans what it means to experience a catastrophic attack. Yet the horrifying losses that day were but a fraction of what any nation would suffer if a single nuclear weapon were used on a city, or a deadly, contagious disease were set loose in the land.

The peril from weapons of mass destruction is growing. Even as the great powers have refused to give up their nuclear arms, more nations have built nuclear weapons and threatened to use them. Terrorist groups are now seeking to acquire and use every kind of weapon of mass destruction.

The threats posed by huge stocks, proliferation, and terrorists can no longer be considered in isolation from one another. The nuclear powers' refusal to disarm fuels proliferation, and proliferation makes weapons of mass destruction ever more accessible to terrorists.

Despite the end of the cold war, U.S. administrations of both parties have planned to keep nuclear weapons indefinitely. Recently, the Bush administration's Nuclear Posture Review proposed to reduce "active" warheads; but this plan would keep the whole U.S. nuclear arsenal, active plus reserve, at its present size of about 10,000 warheads through 2012. Meanwhile, President Bush has requested funds to expand nuclear-weapons construction facilities and develop new "usable" nuclear weapons for a growing list of targets in the third world.

This drift toward catastrophe must be reversed. The time has come to say, Enough! Enough to the great powers who hold vast populations hostage to nuclear terror. Enough to nations that are spreading the threat of annihilation to new regions. Enough to the terrorists who plan the murder of hundreds of thou-

sands of innocent people, Safety from all weapons of mass destruction must be our goal. We can reach it only through cooperation among nations embodied in binding treaties and agreements.

We therefore call on the governments of the nuclear powers to commit themselves to abolish nuclear weapons and to set forth plans to move together, step by carefully inspected and verified step, toward this goal. As a first step, we call on the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals over the next few years, tactical and strategic, active and reserve, to 1,000 weapons each. As a second step, we call on these countries and the other nuclear powers—England, France, China, Israel, India, and Pakistan—to proceed in the following few years to reduce their arsenals to no more than 100 nuclear weapons each. As a third step, these nations should separate all nuclear-warheads from their delivery vehicles, in preparation for their ultimate elimination. Simultaneously, the nuclear powers should strengthen the Nonproliferation Treaty by ratifying the Comprehensive Test Ban and adopting a ban on the Production of Fissile Material. The United States should complete talks to end North Korea's missile program, and the UN should institute an effective inspection regime in Iraq. The existing international bans on chemical and biological weapons should be made universal and fortified with stronger means of inspection and verification. Thus, measures to prevent proliferation and terrorist uses of weapons of mass destruction would go hand in hand with nuclear reductions.

Steps to eliminate weapons of mass destruction should be accompanied by steps to reduce the temptation to acquire or use them. The United States and other countries should redouble their efforts to resolve regional conflicts and prevent conventional war, and to build respect for the rule of law, protect human rights, and promote democratic institutions. And the wealthy industrial nations should launch a new Marshall Plan to help the poorest nations end starvation, illiteracy, and preventable disease, wipe out the burden of debt, and move toward sustainable development and a lasting peace, based on respect for the dignity and worth of every individual.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE, 2002 AS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 24, 2002*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to recognize June, 2002, as National Safety Month in an effort to promote awareness and education in safety matters not only in Western and Central Massachusetts, but across the entire United States of America.

The National Safety Council, founded in 1913 and chartered by Congress in 1953, designated June as National Safety Month in the hopes that if Americans spend a month practicing safety, the increased attention will continue throughout the year and decrease the number of unintentional injuries and deaths.

In 2000, over 97,000 people suffered unintentional-injury deaths. Motor vehicle crashes

alone accounted for 43,000 deaths, while another 51,500 people died in the home or community. Unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death in America, and the leading cause of death for Americans under 45. Yet even with improvements in safety and technology that have created a safer environment for Americans, the unintentional-injury death toll remains unacceptably high.

The Safety Council of Western Massachusetts, under the direction of Jeanette P. Jez,

has endeavored to train people in the prevention of accidents, as well as the formulation and application of safety and health policies, since its inception in 1917. Celebrating their 85th anniversary this year, they identified six focus areas for the coming year: Driving Safety, Home, Community and Environmental Safety, Emergency Preparedness, and Workplace Safety. We can all agree that these important concerns should be a priority in our day-to-day lives.

With the summer season approaching, a time when unintentional-injury deaths traditionally increase, American citizens deserve a solution to nationwide safety and health threats. Mr. Speaker, in this 7th year of National Safety Month, let us build on the efforts of the past six years. Let us devote our time and energy to preventing unnecessary accidents and deaths. And let us help Americans build and nurture an environment that values safety above all else.